

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 299945

NODIS

FOLLOWING LUSAKA 3293 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DEC 9; REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T LUSAKA 3293

NODIS

CHEROKEE

DEPT PASS SECRETARY AND STATE FOR SCHAUFEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH ZA US

SUBJ: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA

REF: SECTO 32029; STATE 296386; LUSAKA 3282

1. I WAS UNABLE TO SEE THE PRESIDENT UNTIL 10:30 PM
THURSDAY NIGHT WHEN I PASSED ON THE MESSAGE FROM THE
SECRETARY CONTAINED IN SECTO 32029. THE PRESIDENT
WAS PLEASED TO RECEIVE THE INFORMATION THAT THE
SECRETARY WOULD SEE CHONA IN LONDON. HE MENTIONED IT
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AT THE BEGINNING AND AGAIN AT THE END OF THE CONVERSATION.

2. KAUNDA ASKED ME TO REPEAT THE WARM FEELINGS AND RESPECT HE RETAINS FOR THE SECRETARY. HE SAID HE WOULD NOT WANT THE ZAMBIAN STAND ON AN ISSUE AS IMPORTANT AS THE ONE WE ARE DISCUSSING TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD. HOWEVER, THE SECRETARY'S LETTER, HE SAID, CAME TO HIM AS A GREAT SHOCK.

3. THE PRESIDENT REPEATED THE REMARKS HE HAS MADE SO OFTEN IN THE PAST, THAT THE SECRETARY WAS NOT USED TO THE BRITISH SYSTEM OF HANDING OVER POWER AND HE HAD TOLD HIM SO. IT WAS A SYSTEM WHICH WAS FOLLOWED IN KENYA, CYPRUS AND MOZAMBIQUE (SIC) AND IT WAS A SYSTEM WHICH HE HAD FELT MUST BE FOLLOWED IN THIS CASE. (PRESUMABLY HE MEANS THAT CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS MUST PROCEED A HANDOVER OF GOVERNMENT.)

4. KAUNDA WAS CLEARLY TIRED BY THIS TIME OF THE EVENING AND SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE A COUPLE OF FURTHER POINTS BRIEFLY. HE SAID WE HAVE ALWAYS KEPT OUR DISCUSSIONS PRIVATE AND HE INTENDED TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. THE ONLY SLIP (HE FINALLY ADMITTED) WAS WHEN HE SHOWED NKOMO THE POINTS WHICH THE SECRETARY HAD WRITTEN DOWN FOR HIM. HE DID SO BECAUSE HE THOUGHT NKOMO SHOULD KNOW THE STORY, BUT HE DID NOT GIVE HIM ALL OF THE TEXT. HE SAID HE WAS UPSET TO LEARN LATER, AFTER THE PUBLICATION IN THE OBSERVER, THAT NKOMO HAD SHOWN THIS PARTIAL LIST TO OTHERS AND IT HAD BEEN PUBLISHED.

5. SECONDLY, HE SAID THAT THE WARNING CONTAINED IN THE LETTER THAT THE US COULD NOT IGNORE FOREIGN INTERVENTION WAS NOT A SURPRISE AT ALL. ON THE CONTRARY, IT SHOWED HOW RIGHT HE HAD BEEN ALL ALONG. HE HAD FREQUENTLY WARNED THAT EXACTLY THIS WOULD BE THE CASE. HE DID NOT FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO MAKE THE POINT TO HIM.

6. FINALLY, HE REFERRED TO CHARACTERIZATION OF THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD EMERGE IN ZIMBABWE. HE SAID HE WOULD ONLY WORK TO ESTABLISH THE MECHANICS OF A CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THAT HE FELT HE HAD A SACRED TRUST NOT TO INFLUENCE THINGS IN ANOTHER COUNTRY BY TRYING TO CHOOSE ITS
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LEADERS.

7. HE THEN PRODUCED A LETTER (TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL) TO THE SECRETARY WHICH HE ASKED THAT I FORWARD TONIGHT.

8. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND LETTER ARE ESSENTIALLY DEFENSIVE AND NITPICKING. HE AVOIDS THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF HOW TO GET NEGOTIATIONS GOING IN GENEVA. AS HE HAS DONE IN THE PAST,

HE IS REACTING TO VERY FRANK LANGUAGE WHICH CALLED HIM TO ACCOUNT. WHILE THE LANGUAGE OF HIS LETTER IS STRONG AND HE IS UNHAPPY ABOUT BEING CALLED TO ACCOUNT, I BELIEVE HE STILL CONSIDERS THE SECRETARY PERSONALLY AND THE US POSITION GENERALLY TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO HIS CONCERNS. HIS REFUSAL TO BRING PRESSURE ON THE NATIONALISTS STEMS FROM HIS GROWING CONVICTION THAT SMITH ONCE AGAIN IS SETTING HIM UP AND HIS CONCERN THAT HE NOT ALLOW HIMSELF TO BECOME ISOLATED FROM THE NATIONALISTS AND THE OTHER FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS BY SUPPORTING POSITIONS WHICH THEY WILL REJECT (ON THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND WHITE MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND PUBLIC ORDER). THE MEETING WITH CHONA SHOULD BEAR THIS OUT, THOUGH I DO NOT BELIEVE HE WILL BE SO FRANK AS TO ADMIT WHY HE AND THE PRESIDENT REFUSE TO BRING PRESSURE ON THE NATIONALISTS FOR GENUINE NEGOTIATIONS. LOW UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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